



Making the Most of AAC in the Classroom

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Introductions!



Learning Objective

- Participants will gain knowledge of best practices regarding the implementation of Alternative Augmentative Communication in the Classroom. Learn best practices in teaching AAC to students with autism and other disabilities impacting functional communication. Leave with a working knowledge of Core Language and its use within the classroom.
- Workshop WTKI is located at <http://aadtintheclassroom.wikispaces.com/>

What is Assistive Technology?

- **Assistive Technology Device**

Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of a child with a disability.

Assistive Technology Service

Any service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. This is defined by Public Law 108-407 in the IDEA.

What is AAC?

- **Augmentative and Alternative Communication**

AAC includes all forms of communication (other than oral speech) that are used to express thoughts, needs, wants, and ideas. We all use AAC when we make facial expressions or gestures, use symbols, [{communication}](#)

Low Tech AAC



Mid Tech AAC



High Tech AAC



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What do AAC users communicate?

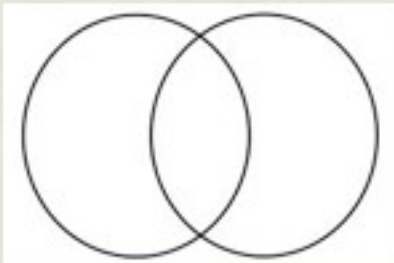
Protests
Comments
Greetings
Questions
Directions
Gain attention



Commute

- ✦ Using the communication board provided to you, tell a partner about your commute here today.
- ✦ Discussion

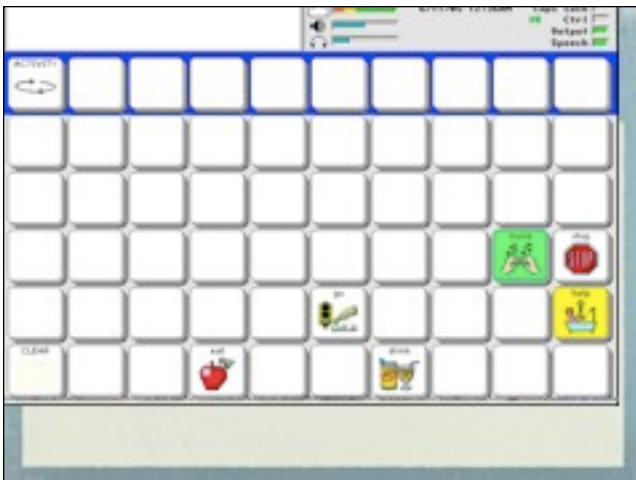
Compare & Contrast



Core Language

Characteristics	Core Vocabulary	Fringe Vocabulary
Number of words	Small number of words	Very large number of words
Frequency of use	High frequency	Low frequency
Applicability across environments	Applicable to all environments	Applicable to limited environments
Applicability across topics	Applicable to all topics	Applicable to limited topics
Type of words	Includes a variety of parts of speech	Includes mostly proper names and other nouns
Performance in a single message	Approximately 80% of the words in a sample of 100 core words will be core, but many of the core words will be used repeatedly, so the number of different words is small.	Approximately 20% of the words in a sample of 100 total words will be fringe. The number of different words will be large, as fringe words are repeated with much lower frequency than core words.

<http://www.asiaLanguageLab.com/laNet/comm/words.htm>



Most frequently used words by preschoolers

I	no	yes
my	the	want
is	it	that
a	go	mine
you	what	on
in	here	more
out	off	some
help	all done	finished

Frequently Used Word List Activity

- In your small group, use the frequently used word list to comment/direct/request about your given activity.
- Note the variety of communication exchanges you can make with your list.
- Put grammar aside and see how long of a sentence you can make!

Dolch List

is	blue	we	up	fly
	you	at		
off	give	think		
open	sing	and	only	
	clean			

Dolch Words

- Isn't it interesting that many of the same words on the Dolch list are also on the Core Language list???? Coincidence?



LAMP

• *What is LAMP?*

Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) is a therapeutic approach based on neurological and motor learning principles. The goal is to give individuals who are nonverbal or have limited verbal abilities a method of independently and spontaneously expressing themselves in any setting.
(aacandautism.com)

Keyboard Activity



John using Core Language (Gail Vantatanhove video)



Break

Language Stealers



Reading Standard; Literature

- ...as written in the Massachusetts Curriculum Standards, March 2011. English Language Arts; Reading Standard Strand: Literature; Key Ideas and Details, Grade 2.
- "Ask and answer questions such as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text." -koegan
- Use Aided Language Stimulation & Modeling to teach vocabulary within the context of the lesson; facilitates vocabulary building within lesson as well as vocabulary to be used in conversation.

Aided Language Stimulation

- A language stimulation approach in which the facilitator points out picture symbols on the child's communication display in conjunction with all ongoing language stimulation. Through the modeling process, the concept of using the pictorial symbols interactively is demonstrated for the individual (<http://www.f.uconn.edu/~meri/index%20aided.html>).



- Flashlight cuing

Writing Standard for Science; Text Types and Purposes

- ...as written in the Massachusetts Curriculum Standards, March 2011. Writing Standards for Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects Standard, Text Types and Purposes, Grade 6-8.
- Write informative/explanatory texts including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments or technical processes.
 - a.) Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories as appropriate to achieving purpose; including formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables) and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
 - *** Try to use core in addition to topic specific vocabulary for greater bang for your buck!

Science Lab; Sugar and Water Solubility

- What words could use to talk to our lab partner?
- Fill out our lab book?
- What would we typically see on a communication board for this???

...look back at the frameworks

- "Write informative/explanatory texts including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments or technical processes."
- Which vocabulary will better achieve this purpose???
- You can always have the nouns in your activity row or on a flip book.

Paradigm Shift

- <http://www.asha.org/Publications/leader/2009/090414/090414c/>
- Read article/discuss

References

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How to Get Kids Really Talking, 2010.

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